

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES

v.

ANDREW RAMEY

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CRIM. NO. 3:16-121 RM

**ORDER REGARDING USE OF VIDEO CONFERENCING/TELECONFERENCING
FOR FELONY PLEAS AND/OR SENTENCINGS**

In accordance with the operative COVID-19 standing orders, this Court finds:



That the Defendant (or the Juvenile) has consented to the use of video teleconferencing/teleconferencing to conduct the proceeding(s) held today, after consultation with counsel; and



That the proceeding(s) to be held today cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice, for the following specific reasons:

See Attachment A.

Accordingly, the proceeding(s) held on this date may be conducted by:



Video Teleconferencing



Teleconferencing, because video teleconferencing is not reasonably available for the following reason:



The Defendant (or the Juvenile) is detained at a facility lacking video teleconferencing capability.



Other:

Date: December 7TH, 2021



Honorable Brian R. Martinotti
United States District Judge

Attachment A

The Court finds that the change of plea hearing to be held on December 7, 2021, cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice, for the following reasons:

1. To ensure that the Court is not overwhelmed by cases and proceedings at the conclusion of this period of emergency. Currently, District Judges in New Jersey handle a substantially larger docket of cases than Judges in other Districts in the United States. New criminal cases continue to be assigned by the Court during the emergency. If the Court cannot resolve matters by guilty plea and sentencing, the resulting backlog will overwhelm the Court's ability to effectively function. The concern of such congestion and the particular harm that likely will be caused by delays in the processing of cases and matters in the future is particularly acute in this emergency, at least given that: (1) it is unknown when this emergency will subside and when the Court will be able to function at normal capacity (including, among other things, the empanelment of trial juries) and (2) this District's pre-existing shortage of District Court Judges which already has challenged the Court's ability to process and resolve cases.
2. To permit the defendant to obtain a speedy resolution of his case as well as a measure of certainty and finality in the planning his life going forward, through an admission of guilt and timely sentencing to afford appropriate punishment and rehabilitation. The defendant was first charged for the conduct in this case by criminal complaint in November 2020 and has asked for this case to be resolved today by change of plea hearing. The Court is expected to have a substantial backlog of cases on its docket at the conclusion of this period of emergency. At this time, the Court cannot accurately predict where the defendant's case will be prioritized within that backlogged docket. As a result, the defendant's interest in a speedy resolution of his case will be seriously harmed if the proceeding does not occur today. The defendant has asked for this case to be resolved today by change of plea hearing to be followed by a timely sentencing hearing.
3. To permit the Government to obtain a resolution of the case so that the Government, already operating in a restricted capacity due to the emergency, may appropriately focus its resources on other, emerging criminal matters. The Government has asked for this case to be resolved today by change of plea hearing to be followed by a timely sentencing hearing.